



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - August 20, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial showers associated with the summer rainy season continue in the ***Four Corners region*** and the ***southern Great Basin***. Across the ***interior Northwest***, however, hot, dry weather is straining drought-reduced irrigation reserves, stressing rangelands, and hampering wildfire containment efforts.
- ***On the Plains***, hot weather favors fieldwork, including spring wheat harvesting, but continues to stress pastures and immature summer crops. Scattered showers are providing local drought relief on the ***central and northern Plains***, but much more rain will be needed throughout the region in the next several weeks to ensure adequate moisture in preparation for winter wheat planting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers and thunderstorms are providing scattered but much-needed relief to summer crops roughly along and west of a line from ***Wisconsin to Missouri***, where a month-long dry spell and a recent heat wave have adversely affected corn and soybeans.
- ***In the South***, conditions remain mostly favorable for fieldwork and maturing summer crops, although some areas ***east of the Delta*** will need drier weather in upcoming weeks as cotton bolls open.

Outlook: Dry weather will prevail in the ***Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States***, while farther ***south***, scattered showers persist across the ***Southeast*** and ***Gulf Coast States***. Meanwhile, an upper-air disturbance and developing cold front will trigger showers and severe thunderstorms in the ***upper Midwest and western Corn Belt***. Heat will spread from the ***central and southern Plains*** into the ***Ohio Valley***, while cooler air behind the front will filter into the ***northern Plains***. Elsewhere, widely scattered showers are possible in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 25-29 features above-normal rainfall across the ***southern Plains and Gulf Coast States***, while drier-than-normal conditions will stretch from the ***northern Rockies*** eastward across the ***Corn Belt*** into the ***Northeast and Mid-Atlantic***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast in ***the West, northern and central Plains, and Corn Belt***. Below-normal temperatures are forecast along the ***Gulf Coast***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>